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NONFERROUS METAL ENTERPRISES UP PRODUCTION;
PROMOTE PRODUCTION INNOVATIONS

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended list of sources.]

AWARDS TO TOP PLANTS

Among nonferrous enterprises taking first place in the first-quarter metallurgical industry competition was the Balkhash Rolled Nonferrous Metal Plant. The plant considerably exceeded the plan both for gross and finished-goods production and also met the plan for assortment and for fulfillment of orders. Labor productivity norms were exceeded, consumption of fuel and raw materials was cut, and costs reduced. The plant was awarded the Transferable Red Banner of the Council of Ministers USSR and a cash prize of 300,000 rubles.

The "Kazolovo" Mine Administration was among second-place enterprises, receiving a prize of 60,000 rubles. The Dzhedzinskiy Mine Administration, Kazakh SSR, took third place and a prize of 35,000 rubles. Cited for its good work was the Belousova Concentration Plant, also in the Kazakh SSR.(1)

In the second-quarter 1950 competition, the VTsSPS (Vsesoyuznyy Tsentral'nyy Sovet Professional'nykh Soyuzov, All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions) and the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry awarded Transferable Red Banners of the Council of Ministers USSR to the following nonferrous enterprises: Severoural'sk Bauxite Mines, Ural Aluminum Plant, Krasnoural'sk Copper Plant, and the Leningrad "Krasnyy Vyborzhets" Plant.(2)

The following enterprises were awarded Transferable Red Banners of the VTsSPS and of the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry in the second-quarter competition: "Nittis Kumyzh'ye" Mine of the "Severonikel'" Combine in Sverdlovsk Oblast, concentration plant of the "Krasnoural'sk Copper Smelting Plant, the "Boksitstroy" (Construction of Bauxite Enterprises) Trust, and others.(3)

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The Council of Ministers Tadzhik SSR and the TsK KP(b) Tadzhikistan have awarded the Transferable Red Banner in the second-quarter competition among enterprises under Union jurisdiction to the Lyakkan Mine Administration, which exceeded the gross-production plan 26.6 percent, the quantitative production plan by 27.5 percent, and the plan for decreased costs by 5.4 percent. The Takob Mine was among the enterprises cited for good work in meeting the gross-production and assortment plans.(4)

INDUSTRY HEADS BACK PRODUCTION INNOVATORS

The Krasnoural'sk Concentration Plant started an industry-wide movement for improvement of metal-recovery processes by introducing production innovations at the plant.

In 1949, the plant lost several hundred tons of nonferrous metals because it did not completely fulfill the plan for recovery of metals. With the new scheme of concentration developed by the plant's workers and scientists, the picture changed radically and now there is no such large-scale loss of copper and zinc. In the May Day competition, the plant had pledged to produce in the first 4 months of 1950 several hundred tons of zinc above the established high indexes for metal recovery. This pledge was realized and the 4-month plan for zinc concentrate was considerably exceeded. "Uralsmekhanobr" (Ural Scientific Research Institute for Machine Processing of Mineral Resources) took part in improving the concentration process.(5)

A recent lead article in Izvestiya on the Krasnoural'sk innovators has had a warm response among workers in the main administrations of the nonferrous metallurgy industry. In "Glavmed" (Main Administration of the Copper Industry), after discussion of the article, several concrete measures were proposed to introduce the Krasnoural'sk innovations. The innovators are making a visit to the concentration plants of the Sredneural'sk and Kirovgrad copper-smelting plants to exchange experiences with those workers. Brigades of leading Stakhanovites and engineers are on their way to the Tur'inskiy, Karabash, Karsakpay, and other plants. Each brigade will have a special program of operations.

In the competition for maximum concentration of ore, workers of the Krasnoural'sk, Balkhash, Sredneural'sk, and Zangezur copper-concentration plants have taken the lead and are obtaining above-plan recoveries of nonferrous metals.

Workers in the Main Administration of the Tin Industry have also discussed the article and have developed concrete measures to adopt the Krasnoural'sk innovations in concentration plants of the tin industry. Brigades of Stakhanovites and engineers are visiting several tin plants to give technical assistance. "Metallurgizdat" is preparing a booklet on the methods introduced by Rybakova and Shirokov of the Krasnoural'sk Plant.(6)

Another innovation in the field of metallurgy was made by scientific associates of the Mining Institute who have been cooperating closely with many Leningrad enterprises. V. A. Butalov, docent of the Chair of the Technology of Metals, working at the "Krasnyy vyborzhets" Plant, proposed the use of the thermite process of preparing alloys for electrodes, thereby eliminating the use of metallic chrome, a valuable and expensive material.(7)

The Alma-Ata Institute of Astronomy and Physics has assisted the Chimkent Lead Plant (chief engineer, L. P. Ushkov) to introduce spectral analysis of metals into the plant's operations.(8)

Improvements are also being made at the Tartu Aluminum Factory, Estonian SSR. Several of the enterprises's workers are studying methods of using centrifugal casting at the factory. A proposal by one worker to produce aluminum lids by pressing has brought considerable savings to the factory. Another worker has built a device which hardens the cutter used to cut out the circles from thick rolled aluminum.(9)

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MINES, PLANTS SPUR PRODUCTION INCREASE; LENINOGORSK COMBINE SLUMPS

The Combine imeni Frunze of the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry has appealed to all Kirgiz industry to enter a socialist competition in honor of the 25th Anniversary of the Kirgiz SSR. The combine has pledged the following: complete the plan by 21 December for output of finished goods; mechanize drilling operations completely, surface transport of ore 72 percent, ore loading 62 percent, and underground haulage 85 percent; increase labor productivity 5 percent over 1949 level; fulfill year plan for industrial construction by 1 November; decrease production costs 5 percent more than planned; and complete construction of a clinical sanatorium, hospital, teahouse, FZO school for 200 students, and start construction of a hospital town.(10)

Both the Irtysh and the Balkhash copper-smelting plants completed the 6-month copper-smelting plan ahead of schedule.(11) The latter plant has introduced a new method which should result in annual savings of 300,000 rubles. A worker proposed that the molds for casting copper be sprayed with a heavy lime solution to cut down on deterioration. The length of service of the expensive molds is thereby increased threefold.(12) At the recent session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, M. S. Salin, deputy to the Soviet from Ural'sk Electoral Okrug of the Kazakh SSR, stated that with only a small capital investment, connected with reconstruction of the plant, the volume of copper smelting at the Balkhash Plant could be greatly increased in the next 2-3 years.(13)

The Balkhash Rolled Nonferrous Metal Plant is also making an effort to increase the service of equipment. In shop No 3, a conversion of the drying cylinders of the sheet-pickling machine to roller bearings has increased both the service of the electric motor and the yield of high-grade products, as well as saving 24,000 rubles annually. In the same shop, another worker has recommended installation of new steam outlets with felt packing on the band-pickling machine. In the plant's garage, a proposal for substitution of roller bearings for babbitt bearings in the drive of the automobile water pump has been carried out.(12)

Metallurgists at the Karsakpay Copper-Smelting Plant have considerably lengthened the service of the furnaces. According to present norms, the reverberatory furnaces should undergo capital repairs every 12 months. Furnace No 2 has already been operated, 2½ years without capital repairs, thereby saving 1½ million rubles. The increased length of the furnace run was achieved along with an increased intensity in its operation. Thus, in 1948, the melting of the charge per meter of furnace hearth was 1.2 tons; in 1949 it was 1.3 tons, and in 1950, 1.52 tons. A new method of making up the charge has resulted in a higher-quality melt.(14)

Another Karaganda Oblast copper enterprise, the Kounrad Copper Mine, in 5 months of 1950 has mined a much greater volume of ore than during the same period of 1949. In May, the miners achieved a record output never before attained by the mine.(15)

In the Armenian SSR, the converter division of the Alaverdi Copper Plant has completed the 6-month plan for output of blister copper. The success was due to the use of high-speed smelting. In the first half of June, the division succeeded in decreasing the copper content in the converter slag by 50 percent.(16) The plants' copper-smelting shop has increased the utilization of the capacity of the water-jacket furnaces by 50 percent over the first quarter 1950. Good results in making full use of equipment have also been achieved by "Armbarit" (Armenian Barite) and the Shamlug Copper Mine Administration, both in Alaverdskiy Rayon.(17) The latter completed the 6-month plan 100.2 percent for ore mining and the June plan 112 percent.(18)

The Kafan' Mine Administration in Armenia has been making a concerted effort to reduce copper losses and increase copper recovery. The flotation plant, due to the strengthening of control measures, has decreased losses of copper at the plant to 0.6-0.7 percent and has gained a continual increase in recovery. In February 1950, copper recovery was 96.1 percent, in March 96.4 percent, and in April 97 percent.(19)

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In Taldy-Kurgan Oblast, Kazakh SSR, concentrators at the Tekeli Polymetallic Combine are exceeding the daily quotas for output of lead and zinc concentrates. The recovery of zinc concentrate from ore is 5-7 percent above the norm.

The Ust'-Kamenogorsk Zinc Plant, Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast, completed its May plan a week ahead of schedule, producing 96 percent zero-grade zinc.(14)

At one Kazakh nonferrous enterprise, the Leninogorsk Polymetallic Combine, Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast, the production and economic indexes are extremely low. The failure to meet state plans, a slowing up of the turnover of working capital, and losses in production have occurred here throughout the combine. Millions of rubles are frozen in surplus materials which have been accumulated above the prescribed norms. The mines often lag because of the inefficient organization of labor. Drills are used at only two-thirds capacity, and valuable machinery is often left idle. Many hundreds of hours each month are wasted in the idleness of sections of the concentration plants, and the loss of metal in production wastes is very high in these plants. All of the combine's enterprises are permitting large overexpenditures of materials.

Bogatov, director of the Leninogorsk Polymetallic Combine, and Bereza, chief engineer, in trying to explain the poor organization of production have used the excuse of the rising production costs. These directors recognize the serious shortcomings in the combine's operation but take no measures to combat them. The Leninogorsk City Party Committee has not probed deeply enough into the causes for the overexpenditure of state funds and has not helped the Party organizations at the combine to establish control over the activity of the administration and to strengthen the drive for economy.(20)

The combine's Sokol'nyy Mine has begun to exceed its daily norms as the result of Stakhanovite efforts. The wages of each worker in the mine's leading brigade in May ranged from 4,000 to 8,000 rubles.(21)

In Sverdlovsk Oblast, the Cheremukhovskiy and Kil'inskiy mines of the Severoural'sk Bauxite Mine Administration completed their 6-month plans ahead of schedule.(22)

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